Exports has projected an export target of US $ 5080 million for the leather sector in 2010-11 as compared to the achievement of US $ 2380 million in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The industry has shown a willingness to adopt global manufacturing practices to improve the quality of its products. To support such initiatives, a scheme called "Benchmarks for production units in the Indian leather sector" is being implemented by the Central Leather Research Institute under the Integrated Leather Development Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The industry in all the states, including Orissa, can benefit from the scheme.

Export to Latin American Countries

3350. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment propose to boost export of Indian Goods in Latin American countries;

(b) if so, the details of problems being faced by Indian exporters to reach to distant Latin American countries; and

(c) the steps Govemment propose to take to boost export of goods and services in Latin American countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no major problem reported in effecting exports to the Latin American countries except for the high transportation costs on account of the long distances involved. To boost Indian exports to this region, an integrated programme called "Focus LAC" was initiated in 1997, under which exchanges of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets etc. are being carried out.

Licenses to Manufacture Gutka

3351. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: